

Washington, DC - This afternoon, Chairman Charles Gonzalez (TX-20) presided over a hearing of the Committee on House Administration's Congressional Task Force. The Task Force, responsible for investigate the contested 2006 election in Florida's 13th Congressional District, formally approved the Government Accountability Office's engagement plan for review of voting equipment used in the election.

The GAO's plan lays out a high-level objective to determine the extent of which the voting machines could have contributed to the large undervote in last year's election. In addition, the GAO will "ascertain whether additional testing is needed to determine whether the voting systems contributed to the undervote."

The Task Force also agreed upon a target date of July 27th, 2007, at which time the GAO will report back to the Task Force on the findings of their investigation.

Rep. Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following statement on the hearing:

"While the Task Force understands the sensitive nature of this investigation and the need for sufficient time to complete a thorough analysis, we remain committed to concluding this inquiry in a timely fashion. Upon review of the GAO's engagement plan, this Task Force has deemed the target date of July 27th, 2007 appropriate as it will provide the GAO with ample time to complete their analysis but also respects the need to arrive at a solution sooner rather than later. I am hopeful that the GAO will be able to complete their thorough and comprehensive analysis in a timely manner, and look forward to the GAO's report on its findings at the end of July."